

Application No. 10/081,674  
Response dated February 6, 2006  
Reply to Notice of October 6, 2005

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Responsive to the Official Action mailed October 6, 2005, applicants hereby cancel dependent claims 12-15. It is believed that the application is now in condition for formal allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Applicants note the Examiner's comments regarding the "consisting of" language in their claims, and applicants respectfully maintain that canceled claims 12-15 *do not* improperly "add an element or step" from which they depend. Clearly, when the independent claim specifies that the present protective cover "consists of . . . . polymeric filamentary elements", with dependent claims further specifying the nature of *the filamentary elements themselves*, this is *not* the addition of "an element or step". Applicants note the Examiner's request for legal precedent in this regard, and should such be located by the applicants, the Examiner will be advised accordingly.

In view of the foregoing, formal allowance of claims 1, 8, 16, 18, 23 and 24 is believed to be in order and is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner wish to speak with applicants' attorneys, they may be reached at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Allen J. Hooyer, Reg. No. 24,103

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER  
500 West Madison Street, Suite 3800  
Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511  
312/876-1800

Application No. 10/081,674  
Response dated February 6, 2006  
Reply to Notice of October 6, 2005



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage at First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **February 6, 2006**.

Colleen Hanson